



# MDPA News

Mount Diablo Pilots Association  
Buchanan Field, Concord, California

September 2019

[media@mdpa.org](mailto:media@mdpa.org)

Volume 48 Issue 9

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### MDPA Calendar Upcoming Events

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#### September 2019

- 4 Board Meeting
  - 7 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout to Santa Rosa
  - 21 Summer BBQ & Party
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#### October 2019

- 2 Board Meeting
  - 5 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout to Half Moon Bay
- 

#### November 2019

- 2 Breakfast, Safety Forum & Flyout to Monterey
  - 6 Board Meeting
- 

### MDPA SAFETY FORUM, SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2019

*By John Potter*

#### **“HANGAR TALK” HOUR**

We had about 35 attendees for donuts. We were short volunteers by the Wednesday deadline at 6:00 PM, so, the breakfast was cancelled. Clean up was prompt.

It is essential that volunteers  
**!!!!Register!!!!**

so that we can have the “**right**” number of people,  
but not too many!

We are now depending 100% on MDPA members to respond to the request for helpers that comes out a week before the Saturday Safety Forum by going to the MDPA website calendar and registering. Failure to register means that we do not know how many will show up.

<http://www.mdpa.org/event-3090990/Registration>

The “Cooking Team” is divided to do these tasks:

- **Head Cook (1)** - Makes sure that the food is ready on time and properly prepared.
- **Cooks (at least 4)** – Prepare the food and cleanup the kitchen.
- **Shopping (1)** - Get the food (usually at Costco and/or Safeway, etc).
- **Set-up (1)** - Prepare the kitchen and serving area for serving and store the equipment afterwards.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

The method of using the website calendar to signup was briefed. **If you are logged into** the club website, it is easy to find out how many (& who) signed up so that you can gauge whether you should step up and “register” or not.

Members can sign up in advance by simply going online and “registering” for any month in the remaining months of the year in a time frame of convenience for them.

### **MDPA President’s (Maurice Gunderson) Comments**

Maurice introduced the guests and thanked the volunteers for putting on the donuts and coffee and, in advance, cleaning up.

He announced that oil that was ordered is available and that an additional brand had been added to the inventory.

He announced that Saturday, 8/10 would be a clubhouse area cleanup in preparation for the BBQ on Saturday, 8/17, starting at 4:00 PM following the EAA Young Eagles activities.

Club elections are planned for the September dinner meeting with the slate to be prepared for the October meeting election.

**Note:** *The Historic Aircraft Display, when weathered out, is noticed by MDPA. For this provision to permit an exemption for showing an aircraft, the aircraft must be registered on the MDPA website for that date in advance.*

### **Director of Airports’ Comments**

Keith updated the MDPA members regarding the following items:

- Buchanan Field was highlighted in the July edition of Business View Magazine.
- The Airports continue to attract new start-up aviation related companies to Buchanan Field and Byron Airports. Maurice Gunderson, MDPA President, has played a vital role in using his various venture capital business connections to assist with this project.
- Several non-aviation development projects are continuing negotiations to construct commercial buildings at Buchanan and Byron Airports. Revenues from these projects will be used solely to make improvements to the Airports.
- Airport staff continues to work on the design of the new terminal, administrative offices and aircraft rescue and firefighting building.
- Runway 14L/32R project cost estimates have come in higher than projected and other improvements have been included, i.e. electrical and pavement upgrades.
- This resulted in an FAA grant increase request from \$3,780,000 to \$5,300,000. Final grant offer is pending and project is expected to start in April of 2020.
- Byron & Nut Tree Airport frequency congestion issue should be resolved with the FAA publication, August 15th, of a new frequency for Nut Tree Airport.

## **MDPA Treasurer's Remarks**

Elaine Yeary reported no new members.

### **Activities**

Mike Harris briefed on the planned Tower Tour.

## **SAFETY FORUM**

### **Moderator – Jim Blanco**

Jim told of 2 events, about 10 year apart, where he lost an engine in a Mooney 201. It was the same single engine aircraft and the first event thought to be due to inadequate cooling caused by a baffling problem on one cylinder.\*

**\*note:** The first event where I said that the number 3 cylinder cracked was due to the cylinder overheating, remember I said that I noticed that the cylinder was running in the high 400s, but as a younger pilot I didn't know that you should keep all cylinders under 400. Had I done so, that probably would have prevented the cylinder from breaking

The second event was a bent pushrod. He thought that there was no way to know when that may happen.

He also described an event in the C-340 where a loss of a vacuum pump due to a sheared shaft in VMC and later loss of the electrical system due to an a toggle switch on the aircraft HVAC system.

The other pilots told of their own experiences with similar problems.

#### *Editor's comment:*

Throughout this discussion the events and actions taken were discussed but there was not a thorough cross examination on the sequences leading up to the losses or possible preventative actions that could have been taken earlier to avoid the possible consequences in the first place. It was noteworthy that we were not successful in doing a little more thorough "Root cause Analysis."

***We must look out for each other --- MDPA's "safety culture".***

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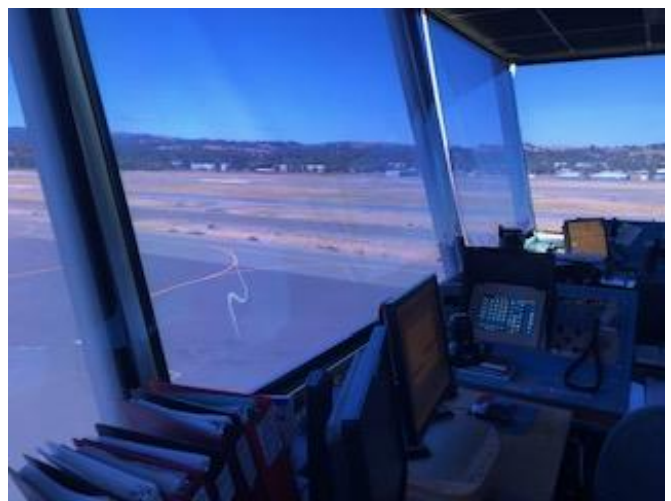
## **KCCR TOWER TOUR, SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2019**

Thanks to all who attended the KCCR tower tour on August 3, 2019. We had about 15 attendees and were able to spend at least 40 min in the tower.

Thank you to the supervisor Bill Hannon for making this happen. Thanks to all the controllers who answered all our questions: Pateli, Amanda, Sean and Kirk. Great learning experience. We even got to step outside and walk around the catwalk.

Mike Harris





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Buchanan Field Clubhouse –  
200 Buchanan Field Rd Concord  
For details visit the Mount Diablo Pilots  
Association @ [www.MDPA.org](http://www.MDPA.org)

**The Mount Diablo Pilots Association is a non-profit organization based at  
Buchanan Field (KCCR) in Concord, California.**

**The purposes of the Mount Diablo Pilots Association are:**

- To promote good public relations between general aviation enthusiasts and the local community
- To encourage participation in fly-ins and other aviation activities
- To promote safety and educational activities for pilots
- To provide mutual resources of information on flying for members
- To furnish information and support to the Contra Costa Airport Advisory Committee and other governmental agencies concerned with aviation
- To be a proxy on aviation matters of community concern for its membership

**MDPA Directors & Officers:**

President - Maurice Gunderson  
Vice President - Pierre Bidou  
Treasurer - Elaine Yeary  
Secretary - Maureen Bell  
Programs/Guest Speakers - Pierre Bidou  
Facilities - DeWitt Hodge

**MDPA Managers:**

Safety Forums – John Potter  
Newsletter & Social Media - Natasha Doktorova  
DART Program – DeWitt Hodge  
Members' Aviation Oil Program – Vishal Goyal

**The MDPA clubhouse is located at 200 Buchanan Field Road in Concord, California,  
*do not send mail to the clubhouse address, use the USPS address instead:***

**Mount Diablo Pilots Association  
P.O. Box 6632  
Concord CA 94524  
[www.mdpa.org](http://www.mdpa.org)**